



and Soviet Studies  
Military Research Division

# VIDEO INTELLIGENCE (VIDINT)

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This handbook accompanies the Air Force Intelligence Conference presentation by Air Force Intelligence Agency, Directorate of Research and Policy Studies, Military Intelligence Division (AFIA/TWII). The material is prepared for distribution to the Air Force Intelligence Community, and includes your comments on this version of the video. Your questions and comments are most welcome and are encouraged.

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## VIDEO INTELLIGENCE

Video Intelligence (VIDINT) is Intelligence information derived from television broadcasts as well as on the scene hand held video collection. Although the concept of VIDINT is not new, aperiodic analysis of foreign broadcasts in the past contained little intelligence information. Traditionally, Soviet television broadcasts of credible and relevant information were limited to Moscow parades celebrating May Day and the Anniversary of the October Revolution. But during the last five years, significant change has occurred, and today there are more broadcasts containing exploitable material which can be used in conjunction with other intelligence sources. The Communist Party values television as an effective mechanism through which to spread its philosophy. This is demonstrated by regular coverage of Gorbachev and other top Soviet leaders. Under Gorbachev, there is a commitment to improve television coverage and expand broadcast time and range in order to influence citizens by portraying a more realistic picture of the country. To achieve realism, problems and concerns, in addition to successes, are publicly addressed thus making the broadcasts useful as an analytical tool. With the emphasis on openness, at least by the Soviets, the trend is expected to continue, thereby providing material for in-depth analysis which is accepted as valid intelligence.

Video Intelligence can provide information that may not be available through other intelligence sources, as well as confirm analysis of material from those sources. Broadcasts can provide information on the development of new weapons systems, the deployment and modifications of existing systems, military operations, and daily life in the armed forces of foreign countries. High level personalities can be identified, and the West can better understand a country's foreign and internal policies by viewing the broadcasts and analyzing statements made by the leadership. Television broadcasts are unclassified, which allows for wide dissemination to the operations community. Video footage provides current dialogue and a wide variety of dialects to aid in language training. As a learning tool for troops in the field, moving pictures provide more effective weapons systems recognition training.

The British have a full scale VIDINT program, and FBIS and the BBC fulfill MODUK'S identified collection requirements. FBIS and the British Military Intelligence School at Ashford provide translation services, and the three man VIDINT team within MODUK reviews the footage for intelligence information. Then, MODUK analysts are notified that footage is available for further review and analysis. MODUK produces a Video Accessions list of new footage that can be ordered for use by other agencies.

Although understanding and use of VIDINT throughout the U.S. community is increasing, material originating from television and other video sources has not been analyzed systematically. The agency and service elements are just now beginning to interact with increased awareness. As the appreciation for VIDINT increases and perceptions within the Intelligence Community become more positive, VIDINT will become an increasingly accepted and anticipated source of reliable information.

**TRANSCRIBED PAGE FOLLOWS**

(Cover Sheet)

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For additional information contact Mrs. Linda Brewer or Capt Noyes Weltmer, comm (301) 859-6021 or AV 235-0111 FANX EXT 6021.